

DRAFT OF MINUTES FOLLOW

Minutes of the Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices
Meeting
Friday, December 13, 2002
Berkeley, CA

I. Welcome, Introductions:

Commission Chairman Geoffrey Cowan called the meeting of the Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices (the Commission) to order at approximately 9:35 am.

Commissioners attending the meeting were: Steve Afriat; Henry Carter; Conway Collis; Geoffrey Cowan; Philip Muller; Deirdre Mulligan; Joe Remcho; and James Rushford.

II Update on status of Commission and options to continue:

Mr. Cowan opened up with discussion of the need to consider the Commission's mission in light of the Governor's Executive Order (D-64-02) and state budget shortfall.

The options for funding, having already been encumbered at the FPPC and a small sum already spent by the BCIPP, were considered in 3 primary ways during the discussion: maintain full funding and complete the Commission's mission: recalculate the budget and accept a smaller sum from the state (estimates ranged from \$70-110,00); or return the balance of the \$220,000 to the state and complete the work of the Commission through the actions of its members and supporting institutions.

Commissioner Remcho supported the need to bypass the funds, and Commissioners Mulligan seconded the motion. The Commission as a whole concurred and decided to complete its work and to forego the original funds from the state.

III. Discussion of how to proceed without state funding for the Commission:

The Commission decided to pay the minimal debts from the meetings in March and April and for the services of Vic Biondi but not to fund any Commission activities dated after the Governor's EO on November 26, 2002.

Chairman Cowan suggested the Commission write a letter to the Governor stating the Commission's decision and send out an accompanying press release. The Commission as a whole concurred.

A general operating budget of \$75,000 was calculated to cover the costs of the hearings and meetings, the research work and the publication of the final report. Non-profit and foundation money was identified as the best source for these funds and it was agreed that corporate money would only be accepted as a last resort to cover the \$75,000 outlay.

IV. Discussion of staff requirements to complete final report:

Commissioner Collis suggested that Matt Grossman be made the Research Director of the Commission. Commissioner Afriat suggested that Paul Cusack be made the Executive Director of the Commission. Commissioner Remcho made the motion that "the Commission accept the in-kind services of the staff work of Paul Cusack and Matt Grossman as contributions by the Annenberg School for Communication USC and UC Berkeley to aid in the completion of the work of the Commission." The motion was seconded by Steve Afriat and supported by the Commission as a whole.

V. Schedule of hearings

The Commissioners reviewed their calendars and identified three dates for the subcommittee hearings. The Political Communication subcommittee, co-chaired by Deirdre Mulligan and Conway Collis, chose February 21st for their hearing to be held in Berkeley [subsequently changed to the Sacramento site].

The Technology subcommittee, co-chaired by Ed Hearst and Henry Carter, identified March 7th for their hearing to be held in the Stanford area [to be discussed at 2/21 meeting due to conflict].

The Fundraising/Disclosure subcommittee, chaired by Phil Muller, decided on April 25th in the LA area for its hearing.

The Commission as a whole chose May 22nd and 23rd for a meeting to organize the drafting of the report. They agreed that a date in September, perhaps the 12th, would be best to reconvene and review report drafts. Then have the final report released in late November or early December with a formal, public event held in two or three cities.

VI. Briefings

Mr. Hal Dasinger of the FPPC gave the Commission a presentation on what the FPPC had been following as developments in online campaigning over the last few election cycles, pointing out both the innovative new strategies and features, as well as, the pitfalls of trying to regulate some of the activity.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioners adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30pm.